AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing windage-induced vibration ~~in a disk drive having a rotating disc~~, the apparatus comprising:

a laminate load beam including a bottom steel layer, a core polyamide layer, and a top steel layer, wherein a trench arrangement is formed in the bottom and core layers; and

~~a trench arrangement on the load beam; and~~

a circuit housed within the trench arrangement.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further including a plate coupled to the load beam, wherein the circuit is between the load beam and the plate.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 [4], wherein the bottom steel layer has a thickness in the range of about 20 to 75 μm, the core polyimide layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 125 μm, and the top steel layer has a thickness in the range of about 20 to 75 μm.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [4] 1, wherein the bottom steel layer has a thickness of about 30 μm, the core polyimide layer has a thickness of about 75 μm, and the top steel layer has a thickness of about 30 μm.

7. (Currently Amended) A disc drive comprising:

a rotating disc having an inner and outer diameter;

a suspension assembly for supporting a head over the disc, the suspension having;

a laminate load beam including a bottom steel layer, a core polyamide layer, and a top steel layer, wherein a trench arrangement is formed in the bottom and core layers; and ~~comprising a laminate material;~~

a trench arrangement formed in the load beam; and

a circuit housed within the trench arrangement.

8. (Currently Amended) The disc drive system of claim 7 including a plate coupled to the load beam, wherein the circuit is between the load beam and the plate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The disc drive system of claim ~~9~~ 7 wherein the bottom steel layer has a thickness in the range of about 20 to 75 μm, the core polyimide layer has a thickness in the range of about 10 to 125 μm, and the top steel layer has a thickness in the range of about 20 to 75 μm.

11. (Currently Amended) The disc drive system of claim 8 wherein the load beam comprises a gimbal portion, a bend section, and a base portion, the gimbal portion supporting the head and the bend section being positioned between the base portion and the gimbal portion, and the trench arrangement includes a trench that extends from the bend section and through at least a part of the base section.

12. (Currently Amended) A suspension assembly configured to reduce windage-induced vibration in a head supported by the suspension assembly, comprising:

a base plate;

a load beam mounted to the base plate and having a length, the load beam comprising a laminate material, the laminate material having a bottom layer, a top layer, and a core layer positioned between the top and bottom layers, the load beam further comprising a trench formed in the laminate material and extending along at least a portion of the length of the load beam, wherein the trench is formed in the bottom and core layers of the laminate material; and

an interconnect circuit mounted to the load beam in at least a portion of the trench.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the load beam is secured to the base plate at the bottom layer of the laminate material.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the interconnect circuit includes a first portion and a second portion, and the load beam further comprises an exposed primary surface and a leeward edge, the first portion being mounted in the trench, and the second portion extending along the leeward edge of the load beam.

16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the top layer comprises steel, the core layer comprises a polymer material, and the bottom ~~top~~ layer comprises steel.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the load beam includes a first end supporting the head, a second end adjacent the base plate, and a bend section between the first and second ends, and the trench extends from the second end to the bend section.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the interconnect circuit is a flex-on-suspension circuit.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 wherein the load beam further comprises a boss aperture configured to mount the suspension assembly to a support arm having a boss, and the trench extends around the boss aperture.

20-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A suspension assembly adaptable to support a sensor member, the suspension assembly comprising:

a base plate;

a load beam mounted to the base plate and having a length, the load beam comprising a laminate material, the laminate material having a ~~bottom~~ first layer, a ~~top~~ second layer, and a core layer positioned between the ~~top and bottom~~ first and second layers, wherein at least a portion of said first layer and said core layer has a void formed therein; and

an interconnect circuit mounted ~~between~~ to at least a portion of the ~~bottom~~ first layer and core layer within the void.

27. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the load beam is secured to the base plate at the bottom layer of the laminate material.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~28~~26 wherein the interconnect circuit includes a first portion and a second portion, and the load beam further comprises an exposed primary surface and a leeward edge, the first portion being mounted in the void, and the second portion extending along the leeward edge of the load beam.

30. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the top layer comprises steel, the core layer comprises a polymer material, and the ~~top~~ bottom layer comprises steel.

31. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~28~~26 wherein the load beam includes a first end supporting a sensor member, a second end adjacent the base plate, and a bend section between the first and second ends, and the void extends from the second end to the bend section.

32. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the interconnect circuit is a flex-on-suspension circuit.

33. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26 wherein the load beam further comprises a boss aperture configured to mount the suspension assembly to a support arm having a boss.